Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A key for a keyboard-based musical instrument characterized by comprising:
 - a key body; and
- a key touch member disposed on the top of said key body, made of a first synthetic resin having a <u>large number of</u> hydrophilic polymer <u>particles</u> added thereto <u>in a dispersed manner</u>, and for touching the key;

wherein the hydrophilic polymer has particles have a hydrophilic group in a main chain or a side chain thereof, and is are substantially uniformly dispersed in a base within said key touch member and unevenly distributed in an area near a surface of said key touch member.

- 2. (Original) A key for a keyboard-based musical instrument according to claim 1, characterized in that said first synthetic resin is one of an acrylonitrile butadyenne styrene resin, an acrylonitrile-styrene resin, and an acrylic resin.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A key for a keyboard-based musical instrument according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said key body is made of one of a second synthetic resin without the hydrophilic polymer <u>particles</u> added thereto, and a wood material, and said key touch member is adhered to said key body.
- 4. (Currently Amended) A key for a keyboard-based musical instrument according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said key body is made of one of said first synthetic resin having the hydrophilic polymer <u>particles</u> added thereto and a second synthetic resin without the hydrophilic polymer <u>particles</u> added thereto, and is integrally molded with said key touch member.